

March 28, 1990

LB 976
LR 398, 399, 400

haste, not only makes for waste, but it makes for foolishness. You wind up doing the opposite of what is intended. I know what Senator Pirsch's intendment was and is, but thanks to help from the Governor's Office, we are going to have bill like no bill we have ever had before. This will be a first, even for the Nebraska Legislature. I don't think even Congress has achieved what we are achieving here this afternoon. So, Senator Pirsch, this is one time I am not just saying orally that...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I am going to support the amendment, I am going to vote yes. And if I could vote yes more than once, I would vote enough times myself to make sure this amendment is added. I sure would hate to be in a position of having argued strongly for this amendment, then shamefacedly having to vote against it or pull it, so I sure hope she doesn't become like a dentist and pull it. (Laughter) Mr. Chairman, we are at that time in the session when I think it is necessary to add a little levity because this is such a serious matter that we are dealing with, and with the time being short that I have left at this point, I will stop for now.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 398, LR 399, and LR 400. Senator Landis, please. Senator Pirsch, would you like to close on this part of the amendment, please?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. Speaker, I will try and answer some of the questions that have been going. This, of course, being dealing with the same thing, we will have more of the same subject on the other three parts of the amendment, but I do want to point out in answer to Senator Hall, we are not striking the course. That is still in the bill, if you would look. It is a Class IV misdemeanor because we are saying this is a serious crime. This is a misdemeanor crime, and it should be considered more serious than an infraction. The course will still be mandated and this isn't going to clog the courts. Less than 1 percent will go to court, and if you are caught, you are caught. It is kind of like the alcohol, but remember in the case of marijuana, if you are caught, you have \$100 fine, infraction. If you hand your joint to a friend, you committed a felony. That is far too much disparity in the severity of using marijuana and that has been the problem all